
Diane K. Townsend



Counsel Naval Air Systems Command

In April, 2001, Ms. Diane K. Townsend became Counsel, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). With headquarters in Patuxent River, Maryland and eight major sites nationwide, NAVAIR is responsible for acquisition management, test and evaluation, repair/modification and in-service engineering and logistics support for naval aircraft and related weapons systems. As NAVAIR Counsel, Ms. Townsend leads a legal staff of over 70 attorneys who provide advice on a wide range of subject areas, including acquisition, strategic sourcing, personnel, environmental, fiscal, ethics, labor relations, and standards of conduct.

Ms. Townsend began her federal government career with the Department of the Treasury in 1978. In 1980, Ms. Townsend joined the Navy Office of the General Counsel and was assigned to NAVAIR as legal advisor to various aircraft and missile programs. In 1985, she became the Supervisory Associate Counsel for aircraft programs. She was responsible for legal advice to a wide range of major weapon systems, including aircraft, electronic countermeasures and weapons, and missiles. In 1995, Ms. Townsend transferred to the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) as head of the Systems Section and provided advice on the acquisition of combat and weapon systems navigational systems, propulsion systems, acoustical systems, ordnance, and other ship related items. Ms. Townsend was also responsible for acquisition issues for NAVSEA's large field counsel system.

In October, 1997, Ms. Townsend was appointed Counsel, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), headquartered in Mechanicsburg, PA. NAVSUP oversees logistics programs in the areas of supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, and security assistance. In that position, she supervised a legal staff of over 50 attorneys.

Ms. Townsend received her bachelor's of arts degree, cum laude, in political science from Boston University in 1973. She received a law degree, cum laude, from New England School of Law in 1977, and was admitted to the New York State bar in 1978. She was selected for the Senior Executive Service in October 1997. She has received the

Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1995 and has received the Superior Civilian Service Award in 2001 and 2005. She was awarded the Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award in 2003.